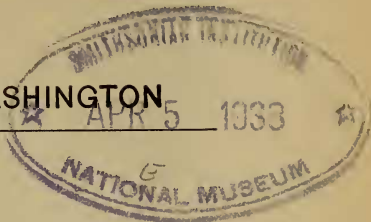


PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



A NEW WEASEL FROM BOLIVIA AND PERU.<sup>1</sup>

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American weasels of the subgenus *Mustela* so far as known reach their southern limit of occurrence in the vicinity of Lake Titicaca. Examination of additional specimens from that region and study of more adequate material from the territory, immediately to the northward, reveal the existence of an unnamed race of weasel, in southern Peru and northern Bolivia, which may be known as:

*Mustela frenata boliviensis*, new subspecies.

*Type*.—Male, adult, skull and skin; no. 72587, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; Nequejahuira, 8000 ft., Bolivia; May 19, 1926; collected by G. H. H. Tate; original no. 4135.

*Range*.—Andes from Limbani, Peru, southeastward to Nequejahuira, Bolivia.

*Diagnosis*.—Size small (see measurements). Color: Dark, upperparts near (n) mars brown (of Ridgway: Color Standards and Color Nomenclature: 1912), darker on head; tip of tail black; underparts cream colored and tinged with ochraceous-buff; light color of underparts much restricted, at narrowest point amounting to only 15 (11-19) per cent of greatest width of color of upperparts, and extended distally on hind limbs only to knees; upper lips dark colored all around, and spot at each angle of mouth usually confluent with color of upperparts; light-colored facial markings absent; skull, and especially teeth, small; tympanic bullae relatively uninflated, and projecting only slightly ventrally to squamosal; squamosal anterior to bulla straight or slightly convex ventrally.

*Comparison*.—From *Mustela frenata macrura* Taczanowski, *boliviensis* differs chiefly in smaller size; depending on the part of the range of *macrura* from which specimens are selected for comparison, *boliviensis* is in external linear dimensions 5 to 22 per cent smaller, teeth 7 to 11 per cent smaller in linear measurements and with a skull only one-half to three-fourths as heavy by actual weight. From *Mustela frenata agilis* Tschudi (for names

<sup>1</sup> Contribution from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California.

and ranges of South American weasels see Hall, Carnegie Instit. Washington Publ. no. 473, pp. 101-111, 1936) *boliviensis* differs chiefly in darker color (*agilis* is near (16''j) tawny olive or even cinnamon above) and greater restriction of the light color of the underparts.

*Remarks.*—The type locality, Nequejahuira, Bolivia, near 16° 20' S. and 67° 53' W., is the southernmost record station for an American *Mustela* known to me. That the distinguishing characters of small size and dark color are maintained over a considerable area is shown by the specimens from Limbani, Peru, some 150 miles to the north and near 100 miles west of Nequejahuira. Specimens from Peruvian localities still farther westward and slightly to the northward, namely, Ollantaytambo, Ochabamba and Anta, though referable to *M. f. macrura*, in their reduced size and darker color suggest intergradation between *macrura* and *boliviensis*.

*Measurements.*—The type measures: Total length, 383; length of tail, 140; length of hind foot, 43. Corresponding measurements of two young males from Limbani, Peru, are: 368 and 340, 132 and 115, 44 and 41. Cranial measurements of the type: Basilar length of Hensel, 41.6; length of tooth rows, 15.3; breadth of rostrum, 12.2; interorbital breadth, 10.0; orbitonasal length, 14.7; mastoidal breadth, 22.2; zygomatic breadth, 25.0; length of tympanic bulla, 13.4; breadth of bulla, 7.4; depth of bulla, 2.2; length of  $M_1$ , 5.3; lateral length of  $P^4$ , 5.0; medial length of  $P^4$ , 5.2; breadth of  $M^1$ , 4.4; length of inner moiety of  $M^1$ , 2.2; depth of skull at anterior margin of basioccipital, 14.8; depth of skull at posterior border of last upper molars, 12.4.

*Specimens examined.*—Total number, 3, as follows: **Peru**, Carabaya, Limbani, 9500 ft., 2 (one in U. S. Nat. Mus., and one in Berlin Zool. Mus.); **Bolivia**, Nequejahuira, 8000 ft., 1.